



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

National Autism Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders are a collection of developmental disorders that affect a person's ability to communicate, process and respond to sensory information, and form social relationships throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders are more common than Down Syndrome, Diabetes, Muscular Dystrophy, Cystic Fibrosis, and many forms of Childhood Cancer; and

WHEREAS, national research indicates children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder make significant gains when they receive early intensive appropriate intervention; and

WHEREAS, children with Autism Spectrum Disorders are active learners when they have the opportunity to learn from trained teachers and support staff and have appropriate modifications and accommodations in their classroom; and

WHEREAS, adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders can lead productive, independent lives when given proper supports and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families come from every area of Rhode Island and represent Rhode Island's culturally diverse population; and

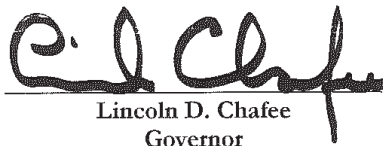
WHEREAS, many organizations have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education and treatment of all persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and

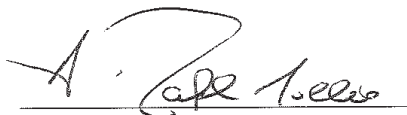
WHEREAS, through increased awareness, legislation, appropriate educator training, knowledge, materials, programs, and support groups; we as a state will be empowered and ready to meet the challenges of the growing need to serve the population of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 2011 to be known as National Autism Awareness Month in honor of those with autism, their families, advocates and organizations and others dedicated to bringing about positive change for those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 30th day of April, 2011


Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor


A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State